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LETTER DATED 1 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that at 1530 hours on 26 September 1996, two Iraqi patrol boats carrying out their duties in our territorial waters at coordinates 140205 came under fire from two Kuwaiti patrol boats of the Viper class, which were equipped with machine-guns. Five soldiers were aboard each Kuwaiti boat. After firing, they proceeded towards the Kuwaiti side.

I would request you to intervene with Kuwait in order to bring an end to such hostile acts, carried out repeatedly against Iraqi vessels, which constitute unjustified provocation and are in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. These acts create tension in this part of the region and are not conducive to stability.

I reaffirm the legitimate right of the Republic of Iraq to compensation for the losses sustained as a consequence of this hostile act, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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